



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PSC ROUNDTABLE ON COLD WEATHER RULE AND POSSIBLE HOT WEATHER RULE

Jefferson City (November 5, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a roundtable on **November 6, 2002, in Jefferson City** to discuss the Commission's current Cold Weather Rule as well as a possible Hot Weather Rule.

This roundtable will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on November 6, 2002, in the Lincoln Room, Capitol Plaza Hotel, in Jefferson City.

The first portion of the roundtable will focus on the current Cold Weather Rule as well as last winter and the emergency amendment to the Cold Weather Rule. Jackie Hutchinson, Director, Human Development Corporation, Terry Sanders, Housing Division Director, Ozark Action Inc., and Gentry Trotter, President and Founder, Heat-Up St. Louis, Inc. are expected to address concerns they have with the current Cold Weather Rule. In addition, the Office of the Public Counsel and a Missouri natural gas company will address the Cold Weather Rule from their perspectives. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public before the PSC.

The Commission's Cold Weather Rule is in effect each year from November 1st through March 31st. Designed to help customers with heat-related utility bills, the Cold Weather Rule has been a part of the Commission's rules and regulations since 1977. Since its inception, the rule has helped nearly two million needy customers maintain heat-related service during the winter.

Last year, the Commission implemented an emergency amendment to the Cold Weather Rule which provided more lenient payment terms to those customers with limited incomes while also helping restore service to their homes. That emergency amendment expired on March 31, 2002.

The November 6, 2002, roundtable will also explore the possibility of a Hot Weather Rule for the cooling season.

Warren Wood, PSC Staff Energy Department Manager, will provide some thoughts on a possible Hot Weather Rule. Ivan Eames, Special Project Coordinator, Central MO Counties Human Development Corporation will speak on the need for a Hot Weather Rule. This discussion will also include an electric utility company perspective on a possible Hot Weather Rule.

Roundtable discussions provide for an open exchange of ideas, opinions and information among various stakeholders to help the PSC assess how well existing rules are operating and what changes may be appropriate. These meetings also provide the PSC with information on changing federal and state issues of importance to utility companies and their customers.